

**MINUTES OF THE GILBERT TOWN COUNCIL IN SPECIAL MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 AT 7:00 AM, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY, 775 NORTH
GREENFIELD ROAD, GILBERT, ARIZONA**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor John Lewis, Vice Mayor Jordan Ray, Councilmembers
Eddie Cook, Jenn Daniels, Victor Petersen, Brigitte Peterson and
Jared Taylor

COUNCIL ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Manager Patrick Banger, Assistant Manager Marc Skocypec,
Deputy Clerk Lisa Maxwell, Attorney Michael Hamblin, Police
Chief Tim Dorn

AGENDA ITEM

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Jordan Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance and Fire Chaplain Rick Oller gave the invocation.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor John Lewis welcomed everyone to the 2015 Faith Group Summit. He recognized the Councilmembers, Town staff, Faith Group leaders, and For Our City team members in attendance. Mayor John Lewis gave an overview of the Summit.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. General updates including but not limited to Triple A bond rating, new park in south Gilbert, Census, and related.

Town Manager Patrick Banger gave an update on the Town's accomplishments in 2015. He shared some interesting demographic statistics about the Town. Town Manager Patrick Banger described Gilbert's philosophy and its goal to be best in class in all lines of services. Compared to other neighboring communities, Gilbert provides quality services at the lowest prices. Earlier this year Moody's awarded the Town a Aaa bond rating.

There are exciting things happening in Gilbert. In the next few years the Town will begin designing and constructing a park in the south of Gilbert at Chandler Heights Basin. The addition

of this park property meant there was an excess of land dedicated to park use in the Town. This excess land can be sold and the proceeds used to help fund the new park. A special Census is being conducted this fall and the results could bring a projected minimum return to Gilbert of \$18,000,000. The Arizona Department of Transportation will be selecting the route of the new passenger rail line from Tucson to Phoenix and one proposed route would pass through Gilbert. Finally there is 4,500,000 square feet of commercial development in Gilbert at this time. This development will bring jobs to the Town.

2. Discussion of Behavioral Health and Substance Use including but not limited to delivery of mental health services, drug trends, drug use task force, and related.

Mayor John Lewis said Faith Group leaders often come to him and ask how they can help. A challenge facing everyone today is behavioral health issues and substance use. The Mayor introduced the three speakers who would discuss this topic.

County Attorney Bill Montgomery said there is a need to change the approach currently taken on the delivery of mental health services to those in need. It is important that the stigma of suffering from mental health issues be removed so people will seek out the help they need. There was a national movement to provide assistance in a less restrictive way and large state hospitals were seen as restrictive.

County Attorney Bill Montgomery said he does not have the answers of what good looks like. He asked people that suffer from mental illnesses and their families to tell him what good is. Another question is who is responsible for providing help, the state, county or city? People need access to help before their problems become so bad that they are incarcerated. One option may be scheduling out-patient appointments with counselors. Another option may be providing an in-patient environment at night with supervision and monitoring. There are people that cannot be helped and they must remain in a controlled setting. People should be encouraged to seek help early.

There was discussion about what ages are affected. An issue may start to manifest itself in high school. The THC levels in marijuana today are leading to an early onset of psychosis in people that are frequent users. There has been an increase in teen suicides. Young people need to learn skills so they can deal with conflict and attacks on their self-esteem.

There was discussion on whether there was a place that is good at providing proactive mental health care that could serve as a model. The answer was no. The national conversation on mental health issues is starting to move the country in that direction.

Police Chief Tim Dorn discussed a domestic violence unit in the Gilbert Police Department. Schools and the faith-based community are partners with the Police Department in the area of domestic violence. There are three components to combating domestic violence: enforcement, education and treatment. Enforcement is not always the most critical area but there is a need for this segment.

The Police Department has officers perform a domestic violence assessment at every call they attend for service. The answers to the questions asked help the Department determine if there is a higher probability of another offense or of escalating violence. The Department develops a safety plan and they do what they can to reduce the possibility of those risks. Two officers were hired to form the domestic violence team. They work in partnership with the Town Prosecutor, Counselors, and the County Attorney to identify resources for the victim. The Police Department has seen significant results since the new team was formed earlier this year.

Police Chief Tim Dorn discussed trends of youth substance use in Gilbert and the East Valley. With the acceptance of medical marijuana the perception that marijuana is bad is no longer valid among young people. Statistics on drug and alcohol use by youth were discussed including the age when drugs or alcohol were first used and where drugs and alcohol are obtained. The Police Department has also installed a prescription drug drop-off area at the main station with one being installed at the South Area Service Center soon. A place to drop off used needles will be added. Police Chief Tim Dorn said the goal is to work with pharmacies to notify people that police station is drop-off site for any unused drugs they may have.

The Police Department is planning to implement a Community Data Project Initiative where the Police Department will meet quarterly with a community group to discuss crime statistics in Town. The hope is to draw from experiences in the room to improve Police Department work.

Jon McHatton is Director of Community Outreach for Congressman Matt Salmon's office. He is setting up a Facebook group called P133 to get people involved. Their options are to pray, to serve, or to pray and serve. People understand there is a need and they want to do something to help. Arizona is at top of the list in the amount of money the State receives for mental health care. The State is 51st in achieving positive results through that mental health care. Congressman Matt Salmon is working with the State Senate Health committee. He is introducing a bill that would ensure oversight of where money is spent, accountability on how money is spent and the return on investment of that money, and providing resources to families. A task force composed of community leaders, business leaders, and faith-based leaders is needed to help find the solution.

There were discussions at each table on experiences with behavioral health and substance use issues.

3. Discussion of volunteer opportunities including Make a Difference Day, For Our City, and related.

Councilmember Victor Petersen discussed volunteer opportunities with the For Our City group. Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 24. There are opportunities to volunteer for five different projects in the community.

Tim Thompson discussed an upcoming event in October 2016. There will be the I Run for Good run to chase domestic violence out of Town. The group's Facebook page, forourcitygilbert, will have information. October is domestic violence awareness month.

4. Update on resources available to Faith Groups.

Mayor John Lewis gave an update on resources available to Faith Groups. There will be information available at the Constitution Fair event on Saturday, September 19. A pregnancy care center at recently opened near the intersection of Warner and Lindsay Roads.

5. Mayor's report on upcoming events.

Councilmember Victor Petersen reported on the One Nation Under God concert event which will be held on September 17.

Mayor John Lewis said anyone has the opportunity to give the innovation before a Council meeting. Interested parties should contact the Town Clerk's office.

Mayor John Lewis expressed his appreciation for all the things done by this group.

ADJOURN

Each table ended with a prayer.

Mayor John Lewis adjourned meeting at 9:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

John W. Lewis, Mayor

Lisa Maxwell, CMC, Deputy Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Gilbert held on the 3rd day of September, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____.

Lisa Maxwell, CMC, Deputy Town Clerk